

and he says, "well, you don't succeed,"

and i feel myself starting to heat up,

and then something stops me,  
and i think about it,  
and i think about how hard i was  
on his half-brother, my first son,

and i say, "you may be right.  
i think it's because fathers, rightly or wrongly,  
feel more responsible for their sons becoming men  
than for their daughters becoming women.  
they can do a lot of things with and for their daughters,  
and they can love them and take pride in them  
and give them every encouragement,  
but they can't, especially by example,  
teach them how to become women.  
so when we fathers see weaknesses in our sons  
that are not our own,  
we are intolerant of them,  
and when we see our sons perpetuating  
our own weaknesses,  
then we could not feel sadder or more helpless,  
and we blame these feelings on our sons.  
i think you may be right;  
i'm sorry if i was unfair."

i realize this is the first time  
i have ever admitted to him  
that i was unfair

although i've never found it impossible  
to apologize to his sister,

and i sit there watching my son  
begin to become a man.

SHE DIDN'T LIKE US MUCH EVEN BEFORE THE AYATOLLAH

i go to the office on friday afternoon  
to pick up the mail  
and there in the campus paper  
is a report of kate millett's address  
on thursday afternoon.

i missed the presentation,  
as did most of the male student body,  
because it conflicted with the world series.



but i see where kate says she's not concerned  
with overthrowing just any old government,  
she wants to overthrow all of them,  
especially anything that smacks of  
what she refers to as "patriarchal government."

she has a few words on pornography too.  
what a disgrace it is that for three-and-a-half dollars,  
(i suspect the prices have risen)  
a man can watch  
the humiliation of a woman on film.

when the subject of civil liberties is raised,  
kate says that she is of course opposed to censorship,  
but that women have about had their fill of pornography  
and that they'll put an end to it  
by economic pressures.

she also says that women are fed up  
with being beaten and raped and robbed and exploited  
as they have been, by men, for centuries.

i'm hoping that my wife doesn't get wind  
of all kate has to say about us men  
or she may forbid me to borrow her car  
to drive to l.a. for my reading.

CLASS

"You got class all over you."

-- Count Mippipopoulos

you know how things happen at the unlikeliest of times?  
well, i suppose that's why i was sitting  
in the bar on a tuesday evening  
with a comely young divorcee.  
i had forgotten that i had also told  
this married girl that i've been going out with  
that i might be in there,  
so here we are approaching the point of the conversation  
when the second girl comes walking in the door.

she came to the proverbial screeching halt  
and looked like she might be about to turn  
on the proverbial heel and depart  
but i saw her and went to her and said,  
"what are you drinking, the usual?  
join us at the table."